THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE IN VIRGINIA. At the time of writing we do not know what re sult, if any, has been arrived at by the democrats of Virginia, assembled in convention at Petersburg The indications are that the convention is a very stormy one, more stormy evon, if possible, than those of 1845 and 1851. We have explained the causes which render these bodies in Virginia always move or less boisterous, and we trust that in the present case, as in all past ones, the convention will act as a safety-valve for letting off all excitement and bad feeling from among the democracy, and that its excited debates will be succeeded by good feeling and concerted and combined effort on the part of all concerned in behalf of the fortunate nomineo.

After all, the office of Virginia governor, honorable as it may be in name, is one very barren of power or authority. Since the days of Lord Dunmore and the vigorous struggles which were so long carried on between that right royal governor and the Burgesses, Virginia has been af flicted with a chronic jealousy of the "one-man power." The first constitution of the Commonwealth, framed in 1776, made of the executive office nothing but a sort of head-clerkship of public accounts; and such was the jealousy with which the seers of the Old Dominion, then engaged in mortal conflict with George III, regarded this substitute for a King, that they set not only a legislature over him composed of two houses, the popular one armed with all powers legislative and executive, but they also appointed some dozen or twenty conscript fathers of the State to watch over him incessantly, and to stand prepared at a moment's warning to put their feet upon the neck of the counterfeit tyrant. No act of the governor was legal or complete unless he had taken the advice of this executive council, and the family quarrels which were thus engendered between the members of the executive of our Mother of States and Statesmen were even more ferocious than those which now take place in party conventions such as that now in session at Petersburg.

In 1830 this plural, ponderous, and most unharm nious executive was continued in Virginia; the governor being still allowed no discretionary powers, which were all concentrated in the house of delegates : and being still subjected to the officious and vexations surveillance of an executive council composed this time of three members. If an account of but a dollar and a quarter for shoes furnished the negro servant attending in the Capitol were presented for his warrant on the treasurer, it could not be paid unless the advice of those grave sentinels perched apon the watch-towers of Virginia liberty. the three counsellors, had been taken. Unawares, however, in spite of the vigilance of

the constitution framers of 1830, and by accidental enactment of the house of delegates in an unthought ful moment, the governor did acquire a large patronage and power for a few years, in virtue of being made ex officia chief of the State's Board of Public Works, a board which was charged with the construction of the extensive railroads and the great canal upon which the Commonwealth embarked between the years 1835 and 1850. The patronage of this board was very considerable, reaching, in the aggregate for all the works, some thirty millions of lollars; and the governorship sprang up at once into a considerable power in the State.

But this hay day was of very short duration. The constitutional convention of 1850, with fell hand, struck down at one blow the whole prurient fabric of a few years' growth. The constitution of '50 created a new board of public works, not elected, as the preceding one was, including the governor himself, by the legislature, but elected by the people; and it confined the governor once more to his old routine duties touching the public accounts, the militia, the penitentiary, and the pardoning prerogative. By this time, however, the ridiculous inutility of the executive council had become a by-word of derision, and the governor was relieved of the humiliating surveillance of this superfluous body.

Thus, ever since the year 1776 the conventions and legislatures of Virginia have been making uncea warfare upon King George and his despised viceroy Lord Dunmore, in the person of their unlucky gov ernor; and such is the traditional hatred which has been unconsciously cherished in the popular bosom of Virginia to this day, of the one-man power, that it is as much as any man's popularity in the State is worth to be for a single term governor of Virginia. That prostrated figure in the State coat of arms, those biting words of sic semper tyrannis, are always more or less personified in the mind's eye of the people by their unlucky governor. He can do nothing that will please them. His every act is either a subject of their censure or ridicule. His office is a mausoleum of reputation and popularity.

The angry occurrences at Petersburg are but an other instance of the "much ado about nothing." There is no patronage belonging to the office to excite the cupidity of the corrupt : there is no power in the office to enlist the solicitude of a great party. There is nothing but the barren honor attaching to the title of Governor which is at stake in the convention. The excitement at Petersburg illustrates, however, the disinterested zeal in their politics which characterizes the masses in Virginia. Their enthusiasm in these matters is eminently Platonic. They will struggle with infinitely more zeal and desperation for an office of honor than for one of emolument.

POLITICAL ROMANCE AND FORTUNE-TELLERS. The astrologers, fortune-tellers, seers, and prophets are not all engaged in the disclosure of love, marriage, long voyages and short troubles, of letters to come full of good news and of money and a variety of other matters, "very important if true." Our blessed country is full of political prophets from whom it is next to impossible to hide a single event of the future-men who, it must be confessed, tell a great many truths, and authoriticate them by unquestionable authority. They make the entire circuit of affairs get on all sides of every question-circumnavigate the political globe, and describe its topog-

will anticipate something that is to come. There active and astute members of society have busied themselves of late very much about the affairs of the Union Establishment, and have indicated so many changes in its organism, that if a messenger should happen to be called away from his duties for a day or two, they could certainly point to a paragraph foretelling it all. They have, also, about twice a week, earranged Mr. Buchanan's cabinet; and as for the ontents of the message and the reports of the departents, they are exposed with all of Judge Edmonds' curacy in spiritual manifestations concerning the Atlantic cable. The latter gentleman is informed by some telegraphic operator who has gone to "the spirit land" that the difficulty in the cable is somewhere near the Irish coust. No doubt his informant is interested in some rival line, or he would have given us the exact point of obstruction and the preise means required to remove it. We are not prepared, of course, to question the accuracy of Judge Edmonds' medium; but, whoever he may bo, he is a long way in advance of the seers who disclose so much about this paper.

It is a great good fortune that we have in the Unied States a free press and the fullest liberty of speech. These are blessings of incalculable valuesure means of producing conflict between mind and mind, greatly to the advantage of the whole community. If in this way our progress can be secured to the extent of opening men's minds to a knowledge of the past, present, and future, insomuch that no "secrets shall be hid," we shall soon obviate the necessity of maintaining schools, coleges, and even newspapers. If, however, one is o judge of the radical failures of late of the news-mongers to foretell the truth or to keep the world advised of what has actually taken place, we greatly fear the day is distant when we can dispense with the press as an organ of sensible discussion, if not of prophecy and fortune-telling. This latter department of journalism, we respectfully suggest to our great cotemporaries in New York, is in very much the condition of a small village which happens to be blessed with half a dozen busy-bodies, who run from house to house picking up news, and contrive, after a little time, to get the whole community by the ears. Some genius in New York, who has an axe to grind, employs a Washington agent to send express by telegraph a telling initiatory message. It is thus stamped as an important affair; and is read by thousands who regard it as a wonderful evidence of the sagacity and prophetic powers of the inquisitorial correspondent. It is perfectly fair to say that nine-tenths of all the natter sent from this city over the wires is either mere idle speculation or absolutely unimportant. So far has this work progressed that it becomes very doubtful whether the home readers of the journals

THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES AND THE REPUBLI CAN PARTY.

referred to do not demand such stuff as a species of

recreation for the body rather than as an employ-

ment of the mind.

The Tribune is making a strong effort to elevate Mr. Raymond, of the Times, in the estimation of the country, by proving that he has abandoned the re publican party. It is certainly very kind in Mr Greeley thus to bolster up and certify to the patriot ism and good sense of Mr. Raymond; but we beg leave to suggest that too much stress should not be laid on the fact that the Times editor was ever a member of the republican family. The people of the United States are proverbially charitable; insomuch that it is extensively believed that " new converts" stand more than an even chance of promotion over those who never offended. Be this as it may, we so dislike error that when a man abandons its coun sels and puts aside its allurements, we feel very much like putting rings on his fingers and feasting him with the good things in store for all such. Mr Raymond has offended the republicans and the Tribune; but we do not see that he has delighted the democrats very much. Every one must respect him all the more because the republicans distrust and abuse him; but he is yet merely "under conviction," and we prefer to wait a little before inviting him to democratic retreats, where he may be shield ed from the lather and razors of the Tribune-shop.

LAW AND ORDER.—The abolition journals are terribly shocked at the failure of the grand jury of its way Charleston, South Carolina, to find bills of indictment in the matter of the Echo and the captured Africans carried into that port. We know nothing of the testimony brought before the jury; but conceding it to have been sufficient to establish the guilt of the parties, it is perfectly clear that the authorities referred to have grossly neglected to discharge their duty in the premises. But it looks queer enough to see the Tribune and its higher-law associates holding up to public reprobation the people of South Carolina for not rigidly enforcing the law. The parties who set all law at defiance, not in an accidental s art of way, but deliberately-by resolutions of pub-I'c meetings, by political platforms and creeds, by precept and example, in Kansas, in Cincinnati, Deroit, Chicago, everywhere in the free States-now complain of the failure of a grand jury in a southern city to enforce the statutes of Congress! The Burns rescuers—the directors of the underground railroads, the men who teach and preach that it is a sin against Heaven to hold political relations with slaveholders-are dissatisfied with the Charleston jury, without knowing a word of the testimony before that tribunal in the Echo case. After all, however, it is rather a good sign. Perhaps the abolitionists are willing to come to a general understanding that hereafter the laws shall be enforced, "though the heavens fall." Has the "higher law" been repealed?

Hon, John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, arrived in this city yesterday evening, and has taken rooms at the National Hotel. He is in excellent health.

Hon. Wm. Barksdale, of Mississippi, was invited by resolution of the ionse of representatives of that fate, on the 26th ult., to deliver an address on the politics of the Union. Mr. Barksdale, in reply, stated that he would cheerfully have accepted the invitation but for the pressure of indispensable engagements requiring his immediate departure for the scene of his duties at Washing-

The marine losses of the year 1858, thus far, are less The marine losses of the year 1858, thus far, are less than and geography with a minuteness which is certain to make them the best of prophets and seers. The public mind is singularly alive to the recollection of everything that is foretold; and equally oblivious to the whole record of false reports, so that one stands in no danger of being convicted of failure, while the chances are immensely on his side that he

PERU AND ECUADOR THE ORIGIN OF THE

From the Correspondent of the Picayune at Panama, Get 19 1 The readers of my South American correspondence in the Picayune have noticed that a misunderstanding be-tween Peru and Ecuador has been, from mouth to month, tween Peru and Ecuadro has been, from mouth to month, assuming a more angry appearance, until it could scarcely go to a farther extreme without eventuating in bloodshed. It was reported a few weeks since that the matters at issue were likely to be amicably settled, but the news by the last steamer from the South Pacific coast does not lend truth to the rumor. As, if a war should ensue between the two republics, Bolivia, Chili, and Vonczuela may possibly become complicated, it may be interesting to your readers to understand the origin and progress of the imbroglio, and so I have dotted down the facts for The proximate cause of the difficulties between Peru

and Ecuador was the buccancering expedition President Flores, with his California fillibusters, Guayaquil in 1852, which it was charged that the government of Peru, under the presidency of Echenique, sympathized with, and even connived at, by affording shelter and aid to the vessels of the buccaneers in her ports. That piratical foray of Gen. Flores against his own country eventuated in an ignominious failure, but of course, left much bad blood in Ecuador against Peru. Diolomatic relations between them, however, were soon Diplomatic relations between them, however, were soon restored, and Señor Saenz was sent as Peruvian minister to Quito; Pedro Moncayo, and after him, Dr. Francisco Aguerre, were sent as Écuadorian representatives to Lima. This apparently amicable state of their relations continued until Gen. Castilla, through the agency of a successful revolution, came into power in Peru, in 1855. on after, Gen. Flores, the hereditary enemy of the present "dynastic" party in Ecuador, was offered an asylum in Peru by President Castilla, and a pension was awarded to him, ostensibly for his services in the war of independ-

This act of Castilla's was viewed by Ecuador as un neighborly and even hostile to her, as it brought neighbory and even hossile to her, as it brought her most decaded enemy in close proximity with her frontiers, where dangerous facilities would be afforded him for fomenting new expeditions against the country and the constitutional order of things. The Ecuadorian charge at Lima protested against these acts of Peru; but, receiving no satisfactory explanation, he demanded his passports and went home, and Señor Sacaz was recalled from Ouito in the early part of 1855. called from Quito in the early part of 1855.

This rupture of diplomatic relations continued until 1857, when Senor Juan Celestino Cavero arrived in Quito as minister resident of Peru. He made his diplomatic debut by sending a despatch to the Ecuadorian govern-ment, conched in rather an imperious tone, on the sub-ject of the territorial limits of the two republics, accompanying this first communication with a bellicose protest against the "alienation" of territory within a district of country comprising nearly the moiety of Ecuador, and extending northward and westward to Papellacta, almost in sight of the city of Quito—all which area he claims is in dispute between the countries, and ought not to be oc-cupied by either until their respective claims are respectively adjudicated. By way of elucidation it may here be remarked, that

By way of elucidation it may here be remarked, that the holders of a certain class of old Colombian bonds, for which Ecuador became proportionably liable, agreed to receive wild lands in part liquidation of their claims; and it was against the allotment of lands under this ar-rangement that Schor Cavero protested. In further explanation of the present imbroglio it is proper to state, that soon after the appearance of Señor Cavero in Quito, Col. Andreas Maria Alvarez, a native of Venezuela, but who married in Lima, where he has been a resident for more than thirty years, came also to Quito with a com-mission as charge d'affaires from the theu government of Caracas. The sole object of Alvarez's mission, it appeared in the sequel, was to advance certain pecuniary claims which ex-President Flores, who is a native of Venezuela, had made against Ecuador, he having ostensibly renounced all political pretensions in the last named country And although the alleged purpose of Señor Cavero's mis-sion was the adjustment of the boundary question, it was believed and publicly proclaimed by the best informed persons in the capital that his main business was to back Col. Alvarez in his efforts to lay Ecuador under a contribution of not less than \$300,000 as indemnity to Flores for alleged lesses of property, &c.; and the carnestness and zeal with which Schor Cavero obtruded himself into the business pertaining to Col. Alvarez's mission, viz: the claims and demands of Gen. Flores confirmed that

the claims and demands of Gen. Flores commed that belief in his ulterior designs.

Much asperity of language was indulged in by both Col. Alvarez and the cabinet at Quito in the discussion respecting Flores's claims. Indeed, some language was used by the latter side which might very readily be construed as insulting to the Peruvian nation; and after Col. Alvarez's mission had been cut short, and he had left the country under "protest," Schor Cavero took up the cudgels in an angry and embittered correspondence with the Ecuadorian government, by way of resenting the affront offered in language in despatches addressed to Col. Alvarez, the "representative of Flores," as he was commonly called. Señor Cavero became so wholly ab-sorbed in this new and (so far as his estensible mission was concerned) side issue, that it was his unwarrantable umptions and undiplomatic abruptness in this last correspondence which led to a suspension of diplomatic in-ercourse with him, and on the occurrence of which he retired to Guayaquil, where he was directed by his gov-

ernment to await further instructions.

Recurring to his boundary discussion, it appears he wrote a confidential letter to Sefior Orejuela, the New Granadian consul in Quito, in which he indulged in most Granadan consul in Quito, in which he induged it most extraordinary declarations and assumptions, alleging col-lusive acts and ulterior designs on the part of the diplo-matic agents as well as the governments of Great Britain and the United States against the rights and sovereignty of Peru in the region of the Amazon river, &c., &c.; and the letter concluded with an unequivocal intimation that, so soon as Gen. Castilla should succeed in suppressing the as an argumentum ad hominum in favor of the claims of Peru to the southern portion of Ecuador. This letter found its way into the Bogota newspapers, and was thus bruited to the world, in violation of of Senor Cavero, as he alleges; but he does not deny its authenticity. This strange diplomatic interlude of course brought down the American and English ministers in Ecuador upon the head of their Peruvian colleague, in a orrespondence sufficiently spiced and somewhat attenua-

As I said, Señor Cavero was at Guayaquil, awaiting orders from Lima. About the 28th ult., two Peruvian steamers of war, the Loa and the Tumbes, arrived in the Guayapull river with despatches from Lima in regard to the imbroglio between the two governments, and comprising, as many surmised, an ultimatum in relation thereto. These despatches were sent by special express to Quito, and the answer was awaited with intense anxiety at Guavaquil, but had not reached there at the sail

ing of the mail steamer thence on the morning of the 2d inst.

It should be stated in this connexion that the cabinet at Quito, on suspending diplomatic intercourse with Senor Cavero, commissioned a plenipotentiary, in the person of Senor Francisco Pablo Icaza, Minister of Fison of Schot Francisco Fabio icaza, Minister of Fi-nance, to proceed to Peru to effect an adjustment of the pending difficulties, if possible; and the fact that at the last dates from Lima, Señor Icaza's mission was not suspended, leaves room to hope that the questions at issue may yet have a peaceful solution. But there are many persons in Peru, of a good deal of influence, who are endeavoring to bring about a war, to subserve revo-lettionary supposes. They believe that a war account Intionary purposes. They believe that a war against Ecuador would imperil the rule of Castilla, as after he had sent away a considerable portion of his troops and found foreign employ for his marine, Echenique and his friends would improve the occasion to assert his right to the presidential chair, from which he was ousted in 1855 by its present possessor. It would seem that Castilla ought to be astute enough to spoil this scheme by adopting a conciliatory course with Ecuador; but late successes may have turned his head a little, so that he is prepared to leap into the gulf towards which his enemies are leading him.

There is no doubt in contract that we have a superpared to leap into the gulf towards which his enemies are leading him.

There is no doubt in case of war that Castilla could take Guayaquil, and hold it for a while, but he could go no further. There is not much in the way of spoils for Peruvian soldiers and officers in Ecuador. American soldier fights well enough when anybody is to be robbed, and South American officers have no objections to "pitch in" at home, in the way of a revolution that to "pitch in" at home, in the way of a revolution that shall turn their political enemies out of place and turn them in. But their patriotism is not sufficiently strong to stand the test of gunpowder unless it is incited by a certainty of immediate personal gain. So, taking into consideration the fact that Peru would have to fight not only Ecuador, but possibly Bolivia and Chili, and certainly Echenique and his partisans. I think the weight is altogether on the side of a peaceful termination of the dispute.

dispute.

In the mean time, Equador is a ming to the extent of the rability. It is eaid she already has 10,000 men prepared for the fight. Of course, in this state of things, business throughout the little republic is completely parallel class smaller class who, at best, have no surplus of the world's goods.

SOUTH PASS WAGON-ROAD EXPEDITION.

[From the St. Louis Republicas, Nov. 20.]
Superintendent F. W. Lander, of the United States overland wagon-road expedition, arrived here yesterday, from the Rocky mountains, and we are enabled to lay before our roaders valuable information of this important

fore our readers valuable information of this important route, the more difficult mountain sections of which have been explored, surveyed, and carried to completion du-ring the contingencies of the Mormon war. Under the appropriation of \$550,000, placed in charge of the Department of Interior, for the construction of a wagon road to California, for the benefit of the overland emigration, an expedition was organized in the spring of 1857, of which Col. W. M. F. Magraw was superintend-ent, Fred. W. Lander, chief engineer, and J. R. Annan

the present superintendent went in advance of the main expedition, with a small party, to explore and lay out the road as chief engineer. His eminent success in this undertaking was referred to in our columns of November last. Two great cut-off routes were discovered, which shortened the old natural emigrant road many days travel. It was decided by the Department of the Interior to attempt the continuation of the northernmost of these routes, because it avoided nearly all streams re-quiring bridges or ferries, and was well wooded und vatered throughout its length, passing north of the de

ert plains of the old road, near the South Pass.

It was also proposed to forward this work with all possible alacrity, as the yearly tolls paid by the overland emigration amounted to nearly the estimated cost of this, the mountain division. While these arrangements were pending, Col. Magraw, who had arrived at the mountains at too late a period in the season to commence work on the road, with a patriotism which does him honor, joined with such of his employees as chose to volunter in the ranks of the Utah army. He carried with him the aniadjacent to the work, and ready for immediate service in

the spring.

On hearing this intelligence, a new expedition was in mediately organized by the Secretary of the Interior, un-der the direction of Chief Engineer Lander, as superin-tendent, which went into the field in April last, and, by tendent, which went into the field in April last, and, by making forced marches, although encountering several snow-storms, and the difficulties of high water, reached the work, one thousand miles from the Missouri border, at the earliest practicable moment of commencing labor in the spring, and without the loss of a man or an animal. The expedition had travelled without an escort, and the working parties were placed in the country of the friendly Shoshonees, without anticipation of modestation from any quarter. The Mormons had often assured tion from any quarter. The Mormons had often assured Mr. Lander, who is the well-known Pacific railroad explorer, and especially when in the country the year before, that, even in event of difficulty with government, they would never harm or prevent the progress of any work of public utility like that on which he was engaged. In fact, a few weeks later, after the return of the Mormons from their migatory movements towards the south about fifty of them came up and worked throughout the

season on the wagon read.

The road was completed early in October. It is three hundred and fifty miles in length, extending from the South Pass, in a direction south of west, to City Rocks, near the head of Humboldt river, and being equally favorable for the passage of both the California and Oregon emigrant travel. Some idea of the amount of the work performed by the expedition may be gained from the fol-

owing schedule: Forty miles of heavy yellow-pine timber cut out and removed; seven bridges, two block houses, and two corrals erected; 92,000 cubic yards of earth, loose rock, and ledge excavated and placed in embankment; 3,000 miles travelled by the same set of mules which started

from the States.

A light travelling wagon train passed over the road from the South Pass to the City Rocks, thirty five miles per day; heavily loaded trains, twenty-five and thirty miles per day. Emigrants can camp where they choose, and find wood, water, and grass abundant. The best laying up places for large trains are at Finey Valley, ninety miles west of Gilbert's station, South Pass, and at Sall liver valley, on the western slope of the Wahsatch nountains, 140 miles from the South Pass. In Salt River valley will be found large fields of very superior a Mountain trout abound in all the streams west of South Pass, and were caught in seines and salted for the ase of the expedition.

The slopes of the mountain section are very easy, and

no portion of the new road requires the

The Humboldt river Indians, reported as having killed emigrants and robbed the mail, were visited by Mr. Lau-der, with a party of eight men, before the arrival of Su-perintendent Forney, who has since visited them. They denied having molested the mail, and passed a number of the wagon road employees through their tribe to California. It may be gratifying to their friends in the East to learn that with this purty went the State of Maine lum-bermen, hired in Banger for cutting out the timber and building the bridges of the new road. They performed this task with great vigor and energy, and re-ceived certificates of good conduct on leaving the work a

ts completion.

A large portion of the amount appropriated for build-A large portion of the amount appropriated for building this grand mountain division of the South Pass road remains unexpended, and from the promptness which has characterised the operations of the Secretary of the Interior in organizing the expedition of the work, has been completed in eight, instead of eighteen monthe, the time originally anticipated.

As the Mormon war is now over, and the emigration As the Mormon war is now over, and the emigration on this important route will undoubtedly be very large the ensuing summer, the importance of the completion of this road can be readily estimated. The emigration not only saves many days travel, but passes over a country well watered and grassed, and entirely avoids the alkaline plains of the south, the passage of which has hither the caused such great loss of stock, estimated as never less. to caused such great loss of stock, estimated as never less than 25 per cent, of the whole number driven. The tolls of the ferries and bridges of the old road heretofore preference to loose animals. Indeed, it is maintained by good judges that, in every year of large emigration, a greater sum is expended or lost by emigrants than the construction of the cut-off road has cost the govern-

The names of the officers of the expedition are : Wm Wagner, engineer; John H. Ingle, disbursing clerk; B F. Burche and Alexander Mitchell, all of the advance xploring party of last year. R. L. Poor and Melchio I. Long, assistant engineers; James Snyder, commissa Ty: J. C. Campbell, general assistant, returned to Salt Lake in charge of the Mormon employees. William West remains in charge of the expedition near St. Jo-

ph s, Me.

Mr. Lander will go directly to Washington, where he will report and write an emigrant guide of the new road He recommends sending a small train over it next seasot in advance of the emigration.

IMPORTANT LAND SUIT IN WESTERN VIR-

A heavy land suit is being tried in the circuit court of A neavy land suit is being treat in the circuit court of Kanawha county, Virginia, in which Messrs. Emilie and Charles Dumas, E. Lacouture and D'Huc de Monsignon, are all suing each other for a piece of land, of which the Kanawha Star gives the following history:

"It appears that in the year ISSI Col. James Swan, of Boston, died in Paris, France, seized and possessed of very large tracts of land lying and situated in the counvery large tracts of land lying and situated in the counties of Randolph, Harrison, Wood, Kanawha, Green Briar, Bath, Tyler, Logan, Boone, and other counties west of the Allegheny mountains, in Virginia; that these tracts, in the aggregate, contained upwards of two million acres of land; that after the death of Col. Swan these lands became forfeited to the Commonwealth, for non-payment of taxes, amounting to some \$70,000. In the year 1838, it was made known to the general assembly of Virginia that Col. Swan had rendered service to the United States in our revolutionary struggles with Great Britain, and had become indebted in large sums of money to officers in the French army, his old companions-in-arms, and has, in his last will, directed that his large landed estate in Virginia should be sold to pay his creditors the money thus borrowed. These facts being made iters the money thus borrowed. These facts being made known, the legislature of Virginia, very gnerously and magnanimously, on the 15th of March, 1838, passed an act conveying all the lands forfeited to the State, as before mentioned, to one John Peter Dumss, in trust, for the benefit of the creditors of James Swan, which credit-ors were mostly Frenchmen, residing in France."

The litigants all claim to have bought the claims of the French creditors, to a greater or less extent, and are suling each other and Josiah Randall—that gentleman having a claim of \$15,000 against the land, as trustee appointed by the Kanawha court. The suit will soon be deckled.

Hon. John J. Crittenden, who is sojourning at the St. Nicholas Hotel, New York, on his way to Washington, was waited upon on Wednesday last by the delegation from the whig general committee and presented with addresses from that body and the Ashlanders' Association. Mr. Crittenden replied in an eloquent and lengthened address. He disclaimed any intention of becoming a candidate for the presidency, and refused to accept the nomination.

CONDITION OF THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAIL.

[From the St. Louis Republican, Doc. 1.]

At a recent meeting of the New Orleans subscribers to the stock of the southern Pacific railroad, Colonel Mills made some interesting and encouraging statements con-cerning the condition and prospects of this road. From his statement we learn that the parties who had forced the sale of the road in Texas had been constrained by public origins in Harrison compts, and the country genpublic opinion in Harrison county, and the country genpublic opinion in Harrison country, and the country gen-crally, to agree to a compromise, the basis of which had been proposed by Dr. Fowlkes. The terms were that a committee of five gentlemen should be appointed to lay down the conditions of the compromise, and both parties entered into bonds of \$500,000 to abide by the decision of the committee. The five gentlemen were selected on account of their well-known intelligence and integrity, and there could be no question that they would do their duty in good faith to all parties. Their award had already been published. Its most important feature was that the stockholders should provide for the payment of the amounts due to the company, which had forced the sale, in three, five, and seven months. The amount of claims made by the selling company was \$327,one, but he had no doubt the committee would reduce the total amount of their claims to \$200,000. There were some debts due by the company not included, but they did not amount to much. He thought that the meeting, on examining the state of the affairs of the un-dertaking, would be satisfied that they were in a very independence condition not withstanding the manner in condition, notwithstanding the man which they had been mismanaged.

The company has twenty-five miles of and and in running order, at a cost of \$22,000 per

and in running order, at a cost of \$22,000 per the worth, therefore, \$550,000; of land accruling they have 250,000 acres, which, at the low estimate of \$5 per acre, will produce \$1,080,000, making a total of \$1,630,000. Deducting \$400,000 for the indebtedness of the company, Deducting \$400,000 for the indebtedness of the company, far above the mark, as well as could be ascertained, would leave \$1,230,000 of unincumbered assets. On the completion of fifty miles, at a corresponding cost, making the amount of its value \$1,100,000, there will be 512,000 acres of land accruing, which, at the same rate, will be worth \$2,560,000, and the State loan of \$300,000 making the total of the assets then \$3,960,000. This would be an ample basis on which to build the next fifty miles at a cost of \$1,000,000; and, in a like, or rather in a much greater, ratio, the means of the company will be augmented as the work progresses. On the completion of the road to the Rio Grande, a distance of 700 miles, at a cost of \$20,000 per mile, it would represent assets to the value of \$14,000,000; the would represent assets to the value of \$14,000,000; th ruing, 7,168,000 acres, at the very low average 0, would represent \$53,760,000; and the cost of of \$7.50, would represent \$53.760,000; and the cost of building the road being paid, there would be assets to the amount of \$39,760,000 in the possession of the company, and one of the best paying roads in the world. The road extended to the Pacific, a distance of 800 miles from EI Paso, at a cost of \$30,000 per mile, would still leave the company \$15,000,000 of assets; and 1,500 miles of road completed, the annual revenue from which, allow-ing \$3,000,000 a year for repairs he had roughly estimated at \$12,500,000, or \$15,500,000 in gross; namely, from 150,000 travellers, which is fewer than those who now cross the continent, at \$70 each, \$10,500,000; from freight, \$3,000,000; from transportation of mails, troops subsistence, and material of war, \$2,000,000.

VALUE OF AMERICAN HISTORY

[From the Philadelphia Ledger.]

Every day brings to light new facts showing the importance of some of those principles developed as nowhere else in American history. Some few years ago, Dr. Neander, about the most accurate and impartial writer of church history of any age, (a sort of man whose immense learning was only equalled by his comprehensive philosophy.) persuaded one of his favorite pupils to sit down and write the history of some of the religious struggles and movements in America, both in a psychological point of view, and in their relation to the history of the Christian life. f the Christian life.

But when the younger historian set to work, he found

But when the younger historian set to work, he found it necessary, or at least highly desirable first of all, to take quite a full view of the rise of the New England col-onies. Dr. Neander concurred in this opinion, and the result has been the production of a work, endorsed in all its essential features by Neander himself; and which is published in Germany to exhibit, "by contrast," the evils they suffer from intermingling ecclesiastical with political affairs, and to assist a cause for which they long,

the cuancipation of the Church from the State.

One small volume on the Theocracy of New England has been already published, and republished for us in Boston, translated by Mrs. Conant, showing how the reaction from the one-sided principle of a Church theocrac helped to bring about the subsequent total separation of Church and State in New England.

The great point which Nesuder and his friend have aimed to illustrate is this: "That all the interests of hu-manity should be allowed each its right and free development, according to its own peculiar laws; that no one be sacrificed for another." This is the principle which those laborious thinkers find illustrated in the his tory of New England as nowhere else. Chevalier Bun sen, almost equally distinguished for historical research, the friend of Nieburh, and lately the Pussian ambassador to the court of Great Britain, recently produced the ex ample of the struggles and triumphs of religious liberty in this country, as worthy of all attention, and exhibiting the proper lesson for Germany at this moment; namely the freedom of the Church from State control or coercion and the freedom of each religious congregation to manage

and the freedom of each rengious congregation to manage its affairs in its own way.

It often seems to those who are going through any great struggle that their labors are very arduous, and their success at the time small. But no man knows what is involved in the struggle for any great right. It affects the whole subsequent history of the world of mankind. The very errors and mistakes of good men, by exhibiting all the possible outworkings of great ideas, and the arg ments and results of antipodal principles, are not los They serve as beacon-lights in all subsequent history and one nation thus furnishes examples and precedents of the greatest value to all others. Mr. H. F. Uhden, Ne nder's protegé, finds it necessary to begin away back at he reformation in England, under Henry VIII, to trace out the first development of the Puritan element, the Brownists; Robinson and his Leyden congregation, their emigration in the Mayflower, and their attempt to set up a theocracy in New England. He does full justice to the lofty and devoted piety and disinterestedness that con-ceived and executed all this. But then he goes on and traces the history of the founding of Providence to Roger Williams; and the decided opposition which he com-menced against every form of union of Church and State. All is done most impartially.

All is done most impartially.

The testimony of the Quakers and their sufferings are also protrayed. In fact, all the mischievous results upon persecutors and persecuted, of religious oppression, ending in the gradual destruction of the Church and State doctrine, are fairly shown. No other history ever so completely showed the absurdity of the union of eccle-siastical and civil government, though the history of alsiastical and civil government, though the history of almost every country might exhibit a greater amount of
crime and suffering resulting from it. But it probably
never occurred to those who suffered, and to those who
sternly and conscientiously persecuted, that their conduct was to form a guiding light in all the future history
of the world, to lead, first England, and then Germany,
even Turkey, and by degrees the whole world, to those
ideas of religious liberty which are the highest glory of our country and of our age, and the safe and sure p sors of all civil freedom.

The advantage of having accurate and truthful historians is also here illustrated, for it is that which makes

whole struggle of such immense value to the world

Personal .- Hon Thomas Bocock and family of Vir rinia, Hon, Thomas Ruffin and Alfred Scales ir. of North Carolina, Hou. Benjamin Fitzpatrick and family, Hon George S. Houston, Hon. Eli S. Shorter and family, Hon Augustus II. Wright, Hon. Sydenham Moore, and Hon. Williamson R. W. Cobb and lady of Alabama, Hon. Jno. D. C. Atkins, of Tennessee, Hon. Jno. C. Mason of Ken tacky. Hop. Otho R. Singleton and family of Mississippi, and Major Steern, United States army, are at Browns

Hon. Simon Cameron and Hon. G. A. Grow of Pen sylvania, Hon. Justin Morrill of Vermont, Hon Wm. H Kelsey and Hon. R. E. Fenton of New York, Hon. J. Stevenson of Kentucky, and Hon. Schuyler Colfax and lady of Indiana, are at the National.

Hon J. A. Stallworth of Alabama, Hon. John M didge of Louisiana, Hon. Paul Leidy of Pennsylvania and Hon. J. B. Thompson of Kentucky, are at the Kirkwood House.

Hon. Lawrence W. Hall of Ohio, Hon. H. Maynard of Tennessee, and Hon. Edward A. Warren of Arkansas, are at the United States Hotel

Hon. John Cochrane, Hon. Edward Dodd, and Hon. E. Morgan of New York, Hon. W. S. Groesbeck of Ohlo, Hon. Ely Moore of Kansas, and Capt. Farren U. S. A., are at Willards' Hotel.

LATER FROM NEW MEXICO .- FORT DEFI. INCE ATTACKED BY THE INDIAN

(From the St. Joseph's Pally Gazette, Nov. 27.

We have been permitted to see a letter written to a gentleman in this city, dated Santa Fe, October 31st, in which the writer states that nows was received in that city the ovening previous of an attack upon Fort Denance by the Navajoe Indians. The Indians were repulsed with a loss of about ninety killed; the troops sestaining a lost of four men. The Indians also drove off a large number of horses belonging to the government.

The emigrants who were attacked at the crossing of the Colorado by the Mohave Indians arrived at All

Colorado by the Mohave Indians arrived at Albuquerque in a destitute condition, having lost about eight hug-dred head of cattle, horses, and untles, together with, all their provision and equippage. Their wagons were left on the Colorado, and they had to return to Albuquerque on foot—a distance of near 600 miles—nearly naked and with nothing to eat but beef.

The war in New Mexico will probably be one of long duration, and it will require more troops than are now in that country to bring the Indians to subjection. At the present time the Navajoes, Mohaves, and Diggers are all hostile to the whites, and will not miss an opportunity of cutting off any small party that may attempt to pass through their country.

The California mail, under contract of Barrow, Porter, & Co., left Santa Fe for Stockton on the 25th ultimo, in

The California mail, under contract of Pariov, Fortar, & Co., left Santa Fe for Stockton on the 25th ultimo, in charge of Mr. William C. Smith and fourteen men, who are determined to go through if possible. Fears are en-tertained at Santa Fe that the returning mail party from tertained at santa Fe that the returning mail party from California upon that route may be cut off by the Indians of the Colorado. In all probability they have received into more at the other end of the route of the attack made upon the emigrant party, and will be well prepared for any emergency.

LAND WARRANTS.

General Land Office, Washington, D. C., Nov. 18, 1858.

GENTLEMEN: In reply to the questions propounded is our letter of the 15th inst., I have to state your letter of the 15th inst., I have to state;

1. That a pre-cumptor can locate two warrants for 80 acres each on a quarter section of land, containing 160 acres, to which he has a valid pre-emption claim; but the application for the location must, in the case of each warrant, describe the precise half-quar er section on which the warrant is to be located.

the warrant is to be located.

2. A pre-emptor can use one warrant for 80 acres and \$100 in money in satisfaction for his pre-emption claim to a quarter section containing 160 acres; but the warrant must be surrendered in satisfaction for one-half quarter section, and the money must be applied to the purchase of the other half-quarter section.

3. He can locate one warrant for 120 acres on three quarter-quarter sections, and one 40-acre warrant on the

remaining quarter-quarter section embraced in his pre-emption claim.

4. He can locate a warrant for 120 acres on three quar-

er-quarter sections embraced in his claim, and pay for the remaining quarter-quarter section with \$50 in money.

5. A locator upon lands held at \$2 50 per acre (rail-road lands) can locate his warrant for 120 acres on three 40-acre tracts, by paying the excess price of \$1.25 with cash, and he can then locate his warrant for 40 acres on the remaining tract in like manner.

That is, each warrant location must distinctly describe

the tracts containing the number of acres called for by its face, and no more; but it the locator finds it to be his inface, and no more; but if the locator hinds it to be his in-terest to surrender his warrant for 80, 120, or 160 acres for a tract or tracts of land containing a fraction less than the quantity called for by the face of the warrant, he can do so, but he must take the land in full satisfaction for ris warrant. It is believed that the foregoing contains a full answer

to all questions presented in your to all questions presented in your to.

Very respectfully,
THOS. A. HENDRICKS,
THOS. A. General Land Of Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Messis Thompson Brothers, New York.

[From the O' Coroto Mercantile of R'o de Janeiro.] Let us now present some statistical data of the Brazilian commerce during several years past. For eleven years—viz., from 1847 to 1857, inclusive—the Uni-

ed States exported to Brazil (Rio de Janeiro,) 2,590,676 barrels of flour; in the last three years, viz. 1855, '56, and '57, they exported 884,966 barrels. During the same eleven years they received from Brazil 9,556,325 bags of coffee, and in the last three years, 1855, '56, and and '57, 3,209,640 bags.

By estimating the barrel of flour in Brazil at \$10 per barrel to the bar of coffee in the United States at \$15 per barrel.

barrel, the bag of coffee in the United States at \$15 per beg, the value of the exported coffee in the United States, during eleven years, was-----\$143,344,825 Exported flour-----25,906,160

And during the three years, 1855, '56, and '57, the 

For the last year, 1857, there were exported from the United States to Brazil 355,858 barrels of flour, and received 901,374 bags of coffee, which, estimate as above, will give the following result: 

Let us now for a moment consider the ratio of increas

of the exchange of those staple articles which constitu the principal commerce between the two countries. In 1847 there were shipped from the United States to Brazil (Rio de Janeiro) 180,848 barrels of flour, and in 1857, 458,858 barrels, which gives an increase of almost 100 per cent. In 1347 the United States receized from Brazil 729, 742 bags of coffee, and in 1857, 901,374 bags—the latter year being an exceptionable one, compared with former ones. The real increase for eleven years was only 10 per cent. Whilst Brazil during the above-mentioned years receiv-

whist brazil diffring the above mentioned years received from the United States 2,509,676 barrels of flour, it received from Europe and all other countries 273,110 barrels—viz: scarcely a ninth part of the whole amount. In 1857 Brazil imported from the United States 355,858 barrels—viz: parrels, and from Europe, &c., only 15,846-viz: twenty-third part.

We have stated already that during the three years, 1855, 56, and 57, Brazil exported to the United States 3,209,640 bags of coffee, and during the same period to

Europe and other parts 3,279,909 bags, the quantity shipped for the United States being almost equal to that exported to Europe and all other parts. And whilst in 1857 there were exported to the United States 901,374 1857 there were exported to the United States 901,374 bags coffee, Eugland received only 445,996 bags, or less than the half. It is, therefore, beyond any doubt that the United States are eminently the great customers of Brazil. The money transactions resulting from this conderable commercial exchange between Brazil and the United States are transacted almost entirely by way of England. The coffee trade of Brazil is steadily increasing, and has admirable tone soft for take the second transaction. and has admirably done so, if we take into account the difficulties against which it had to struggle for many Thus, in 1829, the total export from Brazil was 97,500

bags, whilst in 1857 it amounted to 2,065,718. In thir ty-seven years it bas increased twenty-two times. How he population and wealth of the United States during this same period not increased in such an enormous pro-portion, the coffee trade of Brazil would not have given the same result, as, also, should the United States dis-continue to be the customer of Brazil, that commerce would almost entirely cease to exist.

Now, the time has arrived when the people of the Uni-ted States have to compiler, not how to writelessy their

ted States have to consider, not how to withdraw their custom, but how to increase their return trade with the country with which they entertain such a considerable commerce. We have traced the movement and actual exchange of flour and coffee. In what position are the people of the United States in reference to other inter-ests, compared with other nations? ted States have to consider, not how

sts, compared with other nations?

During the financial year of 18°3 there entered the ports During the financial year of 18.3 there entered the ports of Brazil, proceeding from foreign ports, 2,222 vessels, with a tonnage of 708,807; 602 vessels, with 28f.669 tons, came from Great Britain and her possessions; 343, with 121,871 tons, came from the United States.

The greater part of these 602 British vessels were freighted with merchandise, whilst of the 343 vessels from the United States the greater part were freighted with flow and lumber.

four and lumber.
In 1856 Brazil imported from Great Britain to the amount of \$24,543,000
From the United States 3,726,549

Difference ----- 20,816,460 And, whilst Liverpool sent us \$7,500,000, New York cent us searcely \$450,000.

The St. Louis Republican of December 1st states that Flora Temple beat Reindeer in the great race which came off near that city on the 30th ult. A second match was immediately made for Thursday last.